



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,837	12/28/2000	Judith C. Espejo	BS00-157	5211
36192	7590	12/07/2005	EXAMINER	
CANTOR COLBURN LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			GARY, ERIKA A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2681	

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,837

Applicant(s)

ESPEJO ET AL.

Examiner

Erika A. Gary

Art Unit

2681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8,9 and 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8,9 and 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: "interactive voice response system" should be "method". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henderson, US Patent Number 6,327,363 (hereinafter Henderson) in view of Laybourn et al., US Patent Number 6,480,710 (hereinafter Laybourn).

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Henderson teaches an interactive voice response system (and method) for prepaid wireless services comprising: a peripheral device (fig. 4: ref. 400) in communication with a mobile switching system (col. 7: Lines 37-41), the mobile switching system capable of communicating with at least one wireless device (col. 7: Lines 37-41), and an IVR application (fig. 4: ref. 408) on the peripheral device comprising a menu driven system adapted to receive information from a customer (col. 9: Lines 3-7), an intelligent peripheral communicating with the peripheral device (fig. 4: ref. 402), wherein the intelligent peripheral plays voice messages through a voice path to the mobile switching system (col. 11: lines 8-10; col. 7: Lines 37-41), wherein the

peripheral device directs the customer to interact with the IVR application and connects the intelligent peripheral with the mobile switching system when the IVR service for the customer is required (col. 8: Lines 2-7; col. 9: Lines 3-7), and wherein the menu driven system responds to the information received from the customer by reciting a rate plan that is the current rate plan and features of the customer, and wherein the rate plan is provided to the customer by the intelligent peripheral through the voice path (col. 15: Lines 5-6, 25-30).

Henderson does not specifically disclose the mobile switching system but does teach that the invention could perform equally well with other network configurations (i.e. wireless systems) (col. 7: Lines 37-41). Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to implement Henderson's interactive voice response system in a wireless environment with a mobile switching system, as it is well known in the art to implement landline services and features in a wireless system.

Henderson also does not specifically teach wherein the wireless device automatically provides a mobile identification number to identify the wireless device. However, Laybourn teaches this limitation.

Laybourn discloses a system and method for managing prepaid wireless service wherein the wireless device automatically provides a mobile identification number to identify the wireless device (col. 5: Lines 3-11).

Henderson and Laybourn are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, that is, interactive voice response systems for pre-paid wireless services. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art

Art Unit: 2681

to modify Henderson to include Laybourn. The motivation for this combination would have been to speed up the system by automatically extracting any possible information so that the user does not have to manually enter it.

Regarding claims 2-4 and 13-15, Henderson teaches reciting the customer's account information (col. 15: lines 5-6, 25-30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to specifically recite the name of the rate plan, features, and monthly access fees to give the customer more detailed information.

Regarding claims 5, 6, 8, 9, and 16-19 Henderson discloses the peripheral device is an SCP (fig. 4: ref. 400) that communicates using IN TCAP messaging or TCP/IP (col. 10: line 2)

Regarding claims 11 and 20, Henderson discloses the Intelligent Peripheral plays the rate plan in voice messages to the customer through the voice path to the mobile switching system and the at least one wireless device (col. 7: lines 37-41; col. 13: Lines 38-40; col. 15: lines 5-6, 25-30).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erika A. Gary whose telephone number is 571-272-7841. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

Art Unit: 2681

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on 571-272-4090. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EAG
December 5, 2005


ERIKA A. GARY
PRIMARY EXAMINER